the backing of at least 50 MPs from the Rajya Sabha or 100 MPs from the Lok Sabha; and

(c) whether this provision is discriminatory to MPs *vis-a-vis* the right to request for a probe by a single-citizen?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. However, in the complaint procedure, the Chief Justice of India has been Kept outside its purview.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. In so far as the powers of the Members of Parliament are concerned, they are not being curtailed as they shall have full right as available at present, to move a motion for removal of a Judge as per the provisions of the Law.

Representation of minorities in judiciary

2819. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have done any survey of the poor representation of people from minority communities in the higher judiciary;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps that would improve the presence of minorities in the judiciary; and

(d) the steps proposed to encourage accommodation of minorities in the judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) Appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts are made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India, respectively, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. No survey has, therefore, been made by the Government regarding the representation of minority communities in the higher judiciary.

After the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record and Anr. *Vs.* Union of India, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the entire process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a Judge of a Supreme Court lies with the Chief Justice of India and for the appointment of a Judge of a High Court, with the Chief Justice of that High Court.

The Government have however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and amongst Women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.